

INSTRUCTIONGeneral Education Development (GED) Tests/Certificates**A. Generally**

All current state guidelines concerning the GED Testing program apply to Stafford residents who wish to register for and take the GED Test.

B. Eligibility

1. An applicant must be at least 18 year of age in order to register for and take the GED test. The age limit requirement may be lowered if a student meets specific requirements, specifically the one requiring enrollment and participation in the division's Alternative Education Program.
2. Students who are younger than 18 years old must be legally withdrawn from school and have one of the following:
 - a. A letter from an official of the regular day school last attended stating that the student applicant has been legally withdrawn from school for a period of one year; or
 - b. A letter from an official of the regular day school last attended stating that the applicant has been legally withdrawn from school for a period of six months; and, additionally, a letter from a director of an alternative program stating that the applicant has successfully completed a GED review program; or,
 - c. A letter from an employer, an armed forces recruiting officer, or an admissions officer of an institution of higher learning or post-secondary training institution stating that the applicant meets all requirements for employment or admission except the GED Certificate and have a letter from an official of the regular day school last attended recommending the applicant be tested.

C. GED Exams for Home-Instructed Students**1. Generally**

A student who is sixteen (16) years of age or older and who has been instructed for three consecutive years by parents at home may take a GED test if certain conditions are met.

2. Specific Conditions

- a. The Director of Alternative Education must certify through the office of the Assistant Superintendent

INSTRUCTIONGeneral Education Development (GED) Tests/Certificates

for Instruction that the student and his/her family have been in compliance with home-instruction requirements for a minimum of three (3) years; and,

- b. The parent provides evidence to the Director of Alternative Education that the student has attained a minimum educational level of at least the tenth (10th) grade; and,
- c. The student scores an average of 45 on the Official GED Practice Tests administered at the Alternative Education Program Center.

3. Evidence of Achievement

Evidence of achievement that satisfies item (b) above must be one of the following:

- a. results of a nationally-normed achievement test for the 10th grade with a composite score at the 40th percentile or above; or,
- b. the results of an independent evaluation or assessment which, in the judgment of the Director of Alternative Education, indicates achievement of the 10th grade level; or,
- c. written verification or an official transcript from an approved correspondence school that the student has completed requirements for the 10th grade level.

Legal Reference: Through June 30, 1999

Code of Va., §22.1-254.2. Eligibility of certain children to earn a high school equivalency certificate.--The Board of Education may establish a program of testing for general educational development through which children sixteen years of age or older who have been instructed by their parents in their home pursuant to §22.1-254.1 for three consecutive years and who have completed such home school instruction or who have been excused from school attendance pursuant to subdivisions B 1 and 2 of §22.1-257 may earn a high school equivalency certificate. (1997)

Code of Virginia, §22.1-253.13.1 at D.2. "...programs based on prevention...to increase the number of students who earn a high school diploma or general education development (GED) certificate. (1998)

Approved by Division Superintendent: May 12, 1992
 Revised by Division Superintendent: June 29, 1999